MAY 7, 1970

Yesterday the College Council considered and overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution dealing with the future course of action to be taken by the Middlebury College community. This resolution, drawn up by an Ad-Hoc committee of four faculty members and four students, was framed with an intent to present the issues of the earlier student petition in such a way that the themes of both the national movement and the restoration of academic activities could be balanced. In an effort to bring together the diverse elements of the community, the committee strove to endorse upon the intent of this earlier petition within the broad framework of the three national goals as stated in the earlier petition.

1.) calling for an end to American military involvement in Southeast Asia
2.) calling for an end to the unjust repression of political dissent and political prisoners
3.) calling for an end to University complicity with the military

There has been a great deal of discussion and some dissension concerning the manner on which this particular petition was worded, and the aims which it proposed to support. It is important to note thatthis petition was from the start intended not to reflect a fixed position on the part of Middlebury College students as a whole. The petition was circulated among the students with the understanding that its purpose was to measure the degree of student sympathy on this campus with the general ideas connected to the issue of a national strike, not to commit the student signers to a particular course of action.

The response, after only one day of circulation, was sufficiently positive (about 700 signatures) to warrant drafting of a more specific and relevant proposal along the general lines of the first petition. Thus the student faculty committee, composed of Mr. Robert Pack, Skip Green, Mr. Barton Parks, Bob Metzger, Mr. Victor Ovove, Clara Johnson, Mr. William Kerrigan, and Andy Weinstein, set about to draft a resolution of position that specified, enumerated, and expanded upon the general aims of the earlier petition.

~~The first petition has now served its purpose; the resolution passed by the College Council eclipses the petition~~

With the introduction and acceptance of this resolution the petition has served its primary purpose: that of serving as a guideline for further proposals to the faculty. The petition deals more directly with the situation at Middlebury College - thus there is a call to change scheduling next year and an increased emphasis on efforts of a more local orientation. This is in keeping with the original intent of the strike, which was that the movement was to occur on three levels: one within the College itself; another involving the College with the surrounding community and the entire state of Vermont; and the third relating to the national movement.

The key phrase in section I is:

"The political and academic are not incompatable".

The Ad-Hoc committee believes that the principal goal of the Middlebury strike now is action, not further illusory confusion caused by overdramatization of non-substative issues. After firmly adopting as a set of non-compromisable moral positions from the intent of the original three points, the Committee set out to seek a way to present the issues without creating unneeded issues of semantics ~~and misplaced~~ priority, when the pratical result of the resolution in any case would be the same. Thus certain "catch-all" controversial

phrases were avoided - such as "normal business". Regarding the critical issue of the need to return to academic activities while endorsing the rational principles of the strike, the Committee felt that there was no need to bring up the question of which activity - striking or studying- was to be given priority. Rather the Committee believes that the aims of continuing education and continuing involvement are completely compatable. Being a matter of individual conscience, there is no need to make arbitrary distinctions as to what is best.

The restatement of the platform contained in paragraph two of the resolution needs explanation. First, it is the retrospective feeling of the Committe that the terms of point a should be more specific. Although the wording "an end to American military involvement in Southeast Asia " is the same as was in the petition, it is felt that this is unclear. The Committee hopes that students will mention this during today's College Council caucuses to be held at 11 a.m. In view of the general community reactonto the continuing events in Southeast Asia, it might be necessary to make the call for an immediate withdrawal. from Cambodia and a rapid end to American military involement in Southeast Asia.

In point 2 the Committee tried to deal more broadly with the issues of political repression, while avoiding the controversial phrase "political prisoners." It was also thought that the elimination of this phrase would make passage of the resolution easier, while the substance of the phrase was clarified by a specific reference to Black Panthers. It should be noted that the national strike movement began at Yale a week before the Kent State tragedy. The iss there was the political trial of Balck Panthers. Only after the involvement in Cambodia and the Kent State murders were the issues of involvement in Cambodia and the ~~[illegible]~~ university ties with the military added to the national strike program.

The third plank of the resolution platform deals with the ~~[illegible]~~ issue of university ties with the military in a way that is most directly applicable to the Middlebury College community. The issue here is specifically ROTC, ~~[illegible]~~ This would encourage not only further hypocrisy (since when finally reccommended next fall the faculty could conceivably vote to keep ROTC even though they had previously pledged an end to ties with the military) but woul also, because of likely dedeat at the hands of the faculty, would kill any chance to look at the larger issues of university and college ties to the defense establishment (e.g. defense contracts, research frants, defense institutions.)

Paragraph three is simply an expansion and enumeration of the general principles surrounding the strike, and an affirmation of continuing responsibility to the College Community as well as to the nationwide movements as a whole. The purpose of this is to stress that the Middlebury strike is still a com-- munity effort.

Paragraph Four is a logical extensions of the activities now in progress. Next fall, when elections are near, the significance of student invilvement in local and state political campaigns will be greatly magnified, and thus, if passed, the Middlebury College community will continue its efforts begun this Spring through the Fall election campaign.

Ifthe faculty adopts this resulution, Middlebury College will become part of the national strike, through endorsement of the three goals (Paragraph Two), as well as reaffirming the necessity for continuing educational activities. There is to be no prejudice either to students who go to class or continue their political and social activities. The ways that students continuing in the strike activities are covered in a College Council/Faculty Council resolution

dealing with grading and other mechanical functions.

The Student-Faculty Ad-Hoc Committee
(soon to be incorporated into an
official College community committee)

Mr. Robert Pack
Skip Green
Mr. Barton Parks
Bob Metzger
Mr. Victor Nuovo
Clara Johnson
Mr. William Kerrigan
Andrew Weinstein